

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edele et al (US patent 5,628,085).

The patent to Edele discloses the invention as is claimed. Edele discloses a symmetrical connector (figs.4-7) connecting one end of a wiper arm (1) to a hinge pin (10) belonging to structure element (8). The connector comprises a top portion (13) and a bottom portion (21). The top portion is connected in disassemblable manner to an upside down channel (3) at the wiper arm end via a screw and nut fastener. The bottom portion is received through an opening between parallel flanges (9) of the structure element and engages the hinge pin (10). The bottom portion has spaced outside vertical guide flange plates (16) with faces (28) that engage the parallel flanges. The bottom portion is provided with a cylindrical hinge recess (20) in each flange plate opening downwardly and allowing radial insertion of the hinge pin. The top portion is shaped complementary to the end of the arm and has means (25) for locking the connector to the arm. The top portion includes a nose (27) defining a rear face to bear against the wiper arm end.

With respect to claim 15, note figure 5 of Edele, wherein it can be seen the opening or orifice in the top portion of the connector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edele et al (US patent 5,628,085) in view of Kim (US patent application publication 2002/0174505).

The patent to Edele discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the bottom portion of the connector having a plurality of hinge recesses of different inside diameters so the connector can receive differently sized transverse rods.

The publication to Kim discloses a connector (10, fig.3B) which includes a plurality of hinge recesses (32a,32b,34) on a bottom portion thereof for receiving differently sized transverse rods or pins.

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to provide the connector of Edele with a plurality of hinge recesses on the bottom portion thereof, as suggested by Kim, to enable the connector to engage differently sized rods or pins. Such would expand the utility of the connector of Edele.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edele et al (US patent 5,628,085) in view of Scholl et al (WO 03/080409).

The patent to Edele discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the connector being provided with longitudinal catches, which define hooks, extending from an end of the top portion.

The publication to Scholl discloses a connector (24,fig.2) that employs an opening (36) in a top portion thereof and catches (46), which define hooks 42, extending from an end of the top portion to enable ready connecting/disconnecting of the wiper arm (14) with the connector.

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to shape the upper portion of the Edele connector and to provide extending catches with hooks thereon, as clearly suggested by Scholl, to enable ready disconnecting of the wiper arm from the wiper blade. Such would eliminate the need for tools, to assemble the screw and nut fastener, to join the connector with the wiper arm and allow for rapid disassembly.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary K. Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-1274. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday (7:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica S. Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gary K Graham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3727

GKG
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